

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3190
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
INSTRUMENT PURCHASE AT HIGHER RATES
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1224 dated November 11, 2000 regarding instrument purchase at higher rate and state:

- (a) whether the information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir. The information called for vide Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1224 dated 27/11/2000 has already been collected.

(b) & (c): In the Department of Telecommunications, the instruments normally means, telephone instruments. As such, as per the information received from the CBI, only one case, namely, RC.1(A)/94- Bhubaneswar dated 04.01.1994 was registered by CBI against Shri B.K. Jena, Assistant Director (MM), O/o the Chief General Manager Telecom, Bhubaneswar and others for alleged involvement in criminal conspiracy with some unapproved suppliers of telephones and purchase of EPBTs (Electronic Push Button Telephones) at higher rates than the prevailing rates fixed by the department. The CBI investigation report revealed that, due to this purchase, the department suffered a loss of Rs. 26, 91,000/-. After the conclusion of the CBI investigation, prosecution sanction was issued against the officials involved in this transaction and the case is under trial in the CBI Court. Major Penalty proceedings have also been initiated against them.